

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00213 290401Z

62

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

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R 270900Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5994
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0213

FOR D/HA/ORM

C O R R E C T E D COPY - PARA 3 OF TEXT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LA

SUBJ: EXTENDED INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM

REF: BANGKOK 1570

1. EMBASSY AGREES WITH BANGKOK'S PROPOSAL, AS OUTLINED REFTEL, THAT DEFINITION OF CATEGORY II REFUGEES COULD BE RESTRICTED TO SUBSTANTIVE USG EMPLOYEES, PROVIDED THAT THIS DEFINITION ENCOMPASSES ALL WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS INCLUDING SECRETARIES, FIELD WORKERS, THOSE WHO SUPERVISED BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS, AND SO FORTH. BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS SUCH AS CHAR FORCE, DRIVERS, GARDENERS AND GUARDS WOULD BE DROPPED FROM CATEGORY II, ACCORDING TO BANGKOK'S PROPOSAL, BUT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AT TAIL-END OF CATEGORY III; WE ALSO CONCUR IN THIS SUGGESTION. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE DROPPING SECRETARIES AND FIELD WORKERS FROM CATEGORY II FOR LAO BECAUSE MANY OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CLOSELY AND CONSPICUOUSLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE U.S. MISSION TO LAOS. ALTHOUGH MAJORITY OF REFUGEES ALREADY IN THAILAND MAY BE IN WHITE-COLLAR CATEGORY (SUCH PEOPLE TENDED TO LEAVE FIRST), THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00213 290401Z

NOT CASE WITH REMAINING MISSION STAFF IN VIENTIANE.

WE ESTIMATE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY (75 PERCENT OR MORE) OF OUR REMAINING MISSION STAFF ARE BLUE-COLLAR UNDER ABOVE DEFINITION.

2. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO BANGKOK'S PROPOSAL (REFTEL) TO ESTABLISH JAN 20 AS CUT-OFF DATE AFTER WHICH LAO ARRIVING IN THAILAND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONFER CATEGORY I STATUS ON RELATIVES REMAINING IN THAILAND OR LAOS (ONCE PRINCIPAL HIMSELF ARRIVED IN U.S.). AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE IMMEDIATE RELATIVES OF A PRINCIPAL ACCEPTED UNDER CATEGORY I, II OR III WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY HIM IF THEY ARRIVED IN THAILAND BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL LEFT FOR THE U.S. THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THIS CUT-OFF WOULD BE TO PREVENT THE "MAGNET" EFFECT IN WHICH RELATIVES ACCOMPANYING A PRINCIPAL WOULD, ONCE THEY HAD ARRIVED IN U.S., BE ABLE IN TURN TO CONFER STATUS ON THEIR RELATIVES. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE WOULD HOPE THAT PERSONS ELIMINATED BY THIS REGULATION COULD RE-CONSIDERED AT THE TAIL-END OF CATEGORY III IF THERE ARE ANY NUMBERS LEFT OVER.

3. FINALLY, THIS MISSION IS NOW REASSESSING THE ADEQUACY OF THE CURRENT RESERVE FOR USG EMPLOYEES REMAINING IN VIENTIANE AND FOR URGENT LAO CASES THAT MAY ARISE IN FUTURE. AFTER COUNTRY TEAM REVIEW OF THIS MATTER, WE WILL SEND OUR PROPOSALS TO D/HA/ORM, BANGKOK AND UDORN.
TEARE

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